



HEATED SEAT ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 [0001] The present invention relates to a heated seat assembly used in various transporting means such as aircraft, automobiles, trains and the like, and a method of manufacturing the same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 10 [0002] A conventional heated seat assembly is generally structured like seat assembly 112 provided with planar heater 113, or a heating unit, between the surface material 114 and the main pad 115 as shown in Fig. 12. One of the methods of manufacturing such seat assembly includes a method of integrally forming surface material and main pad by bonding the planar heater to the surface material 114 using double-coated adhesive tape followed by foaming and curing of urethane raw material poured into a mold with the surface material 114 provided therein.

- 15 [0003] Conventionally, as the planar heater used in such manufacturing method, there is one type of the planar heater (for example, as disclosed in Japanese Patent No. 2621437) that is formed by sewing a linear heater to a base material made of cloth such as non-woven fabric and urethane surface cloth as shown in Fig. 13 and Fig. 14. Fig. 13 is an outside view of a conventional seat heater, and Fig. 14 is a schematic view where a linear heater is fixed onto a base material by sewing. In Figs. 13 and 14, linear heater 117 is sewed to base material 118 by upper thread 20 119 and lower thread 120, thereby forming planar heater 116.

- 25 [0004] Also, as shown in Figs. 15 and 16, there is a planar heater (for example, as disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-open Application H8-507404) that is formed by sandwiching a linear heater with two sheets of base material such as non-woven fabric having gas permeability. Fig. 15 is a perspective view of the planar heater, and Fig. 16 is a sectional view of the same. In Figs. 15 and 16, planar heater 121 30 is formed by sandwiching linear heater 122 from both sides by base materials 123,

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